

34th MEETING
OF THE
MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Thursday, May 16, 2002
Minutes

The Commission held a Working Session from 10:12 a.m. until 12:56 p.m. at which possible Commission grant activities, Commission priorities, and upcoming Commission studies were discussed. The Working Session was followed by the monthly meeting of the Commission. Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners present: Alcoreza, Beasley, Chase, Crofoot, Etheredge, Jensen, Malouf, Murray, and Row

ITEM 1.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ernest B. Crofoot made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April meeting of the Commission, which was seconded by Commissioner Evelyn T. Beasley, and unanimously approved.

ITEM 2.

Update on Commission Activities

- Data Systems and Analysis
- Health Resources
- Performance and Benefits

Ben Steffen, Deputy Director of Data Systems and Analysis, referred the Commissioners to the written *Update of Activities*.

Pamela Barclay, Deputy Director of Health Resources, referred the Commissioners to the Health Resources section of the *Update of Activities*.

Enrique Martinez-Vidal, Deputy Director of Performance and Benefits, also referred the Commissioners to the written *Update of Activities*. Copies of the *Update* were available on the documents table and on the Commission's website at: <http://www.mhcc.state.md.us/mhccinfo/cmsnmtgs/updates/>.

ITEM 3.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.24.06, Local Health Planning

Chairman Wilson said that the next three agenda items required Commission action. Each action related to repeal of obsolete regulations. Joel Tornari, Assistant Attorney General for the Commission, explained the basis for proposed repeal of COMAR 10.24.06, Local Health Planning. Vice Chairman George Malouf made a motion to approve the proposed repeal of the regulation, which was seconded by Commissioner

Allan Jensen, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.24.06, Local Health Planning is hereby approved.

ITEM 4.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.24.16, State Health Plan: Worcester County

Mr. Tornari explained the basis for the proposed repeal of COMAR 10.24.16, State Health Plan: Worcester County. Commissioner Dennis Murray made a motion to approve the proposed repeal of the regulation, which was seconded by Commissioner Walter Chase, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.24.16, State Health Plan: Worcester County is hereby approved.

ITEM 5.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.25.10, Practice Parameters

Mr. Tornari explained the basis for the proposed repeal of COMAR 10.25.10, Practice Parameters. Vice Chairman Malouf made a motion to approve the proposed repeal of the regulation, which was seconded by Commissioner Lenys Alcoreza, and unanimously approved.

ACTION: Repeal of COMAR 10.25.10, Practice Parameters is hereby approved.

ITEM 6.

PRESENTATION: Update on Small Group Market Activities and Progress Report on Survey of Carrier Experience, Calendar Year 2001

Chairman Wilson said that the Commission is charged with an annual review of the Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan (CSHBP) that is required to be offered in the small employer health insurance market. The review begins with a financial survey of carriers on their experience over the past year, which will be presented to the Commission in June. Enrique Martinez-Vidal, Deputy Director for Performance and Benefits, gave an overview of the review process and an update on how the audit of financial data submitted by the carriers is proceeding. The Commission's role in the small group market is to design and monitor the affordability of the CSHBP. The Commission's process for monitoring the small group market includes an annual financial survey of the number of covered lives; number of employer groups (contracts); the average premium cost per employee; claims incurred; administrative expenses and loss ratios. The Commission also monitors the number of prominent carriers. In reporting the 2000 data, the Commission required carriers to systematically separate CSHBP premium from enhancements (riders). For the 2001 data collection, major carriers will be audited to assure data reliability. In the fall of each year, the Commission reviews the CSHBP.

The Commission's next steps include:

- Audit of carrier information on premium, lives, etc., will be reported to the Commission at the June 2002 meeting;
- Development of a Small Employer Guide to Purchasing Health Insurance, which will be posted on the Commission's website in the summer of 2002;
- Focus group research in the fall of 2002 in order to determine how to make the benefit plan more attractive and to develop strategies for informing small employers more efficiently; and

- The CSHBP Annual Review in the fall of 2002.

Chairman Wilson emphasized that this is the first year that the Commission is actually auditing reports of major carriers to assure compliance. He thanked Mr. Martinez-Vidal for his presentation.

ITEM 7.

PRESENTATION: Overview of the Physician Licensure Renewal Application Process

The Commission has been working closely with the Board of Physician Quality Assurance (BPQA) to create an online application of their licensure renewal process. The Commission uses some of the data submitted as part of the licensure renewal process in its planning activities. Ben Steffen, Leslie LaBrecque, Chief of Database Development, and David Mitchell, web designer, demonstrated the online renewal process. Maryland physicians whose last name begins with letters A through M will renew licenses this year. Chairman Wilson thanked Mr. Steffen and his staff for the presentation.

ITEM 8.

PRESENTATION: *Issue and Policy Brief: Hospice Services*

Chairman Wilson said that the Commission plans for hospice services under the State Health Plan for Long Term Care Services. As part of the background work to update this part of the plan, staff prepared an issue and policy brief. Meredith Frost, Health Policy Analyst, presented a summary of the brief. Chairman Wilson thanked Ms. Frost for her presentation. The *Issue and Policy Brief: Hospice Services* is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.mhcc.state.md.us/resources/ltc/ibriefhospice.pdf>.

ITEM 9.

Hearing and Meeting Schedule

Chairman Wilson announced that the Commission Hearing and Meeting Schedule was available at the documents table, as well as on the Commission's website. The next scheduled meeting of the Maryland Health Care Commission will be on Friday, June 21, 2002 at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Rooms 108-109, in Baltimore, Maryland at 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 10.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m. upon motion of Commissioner Lynn Etheredge, which was seconded by Commissioner Constance Row, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.